

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

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1. A method in a data processing system, comprising the steps of:
receiving, from a client, a request for a host screen;
navigating to the host screen;
retrieving the host screen;
formatting the host screen into a formatted host screen; and
sending the formatted host screen to the client.
 2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the formatted host screen includes selectable links to other screens within a host system.
 3. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of navigating to the host screen comprises retrieving at least one intermediate screen in order to retrieve the host screen.
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 4. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
responsive to a determination that variable data is needed to navigate to the host screen, sending to the client a submittable form containing text fields that may be filled in by a user; and
responsive to receiving the variable data from the client, using the variable data to retrieve the host screen.

1 5. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the client is a portable data
2 processing system.

1 6. The method as recited in claim 5, wherein the portable data processing system
2 is a wireless system.

1 7. The method as recited in claim 3, wherein the intermediate screen is not
2 presented to the user.

1 8. The method as recited in claim 3, wherein appropriate entries are made in the
2 at least one intermediate screen in order to navigate to the host screen.

1 9. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the formatting step formats the host
2 screen into a markup language.

1 10. The method as recited in claim 9, wherein the markup language is an
2 extensible markup language.

1 11. The method as recited in claim 9, wherein the markup language is a hypertext
2 markup language.

1 12. A computer program product in computer readable media for use in a data
2 processing system for navigating screens in a legacy host system, the computer
3 program product comprising:

4 first instructions for receiving, from a client, a request for a host screen;
5 second instructions for navigating to the host screen;

6 third instructions for retrieving the host screen;
7 fourth instructions for formatting the host screen into a formatted host screen;
8 and
9 fifth instructions for sending the formatted host screen to the client.

1 13. The computer program product as recited in claim 12, wherein the formatted
2 host screen includes selectable links to other screens within a host system.

1 14. The computer program product as recited in claim 12, wherein the step of
2 navigating to the host screen comprises retrieving at least one intermediate screen in
3 order to retrieve the host screen.

1 15. The computer program product as recited in claim 12, further comprising:
2 sixth instructions, responsive to a determination that variable data is needed to
3 navigate to the host screen, for sending to the client a submittable form containing
4 text fields that may be filled in by a user; and
5 seventh instructions, responsive to receiving the variable data from the client,
6 for using the variable data to retrieve the host screen.

1 16. The computer program product as recited in claim 12, wherein the client is a
2 portable data processing system.

1 17. The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein the portable
2 data processing system is a wireless system.

1 18. The computer program product as recited in claim 14, wherein the
2 intermediate screen is not presented to the user.

1 19. The computer program product as recited in claim 14, wherein appropriate
2 entries are made in the at least one intermediate screen in order to navigate to the host
3 screen.

1 20. The computer program product as recited in claim 12, wherein the formatting
2 step formats the host screen into a markup language.

1 21. The computer program product as recited in claim 20, wherein the markup
2 language is an extensible markup language.

1 22. The computer program product as recited in claim 20, wherein the markup
2 language is a hypertext markup language.

1 23. A system for navigating screens in a legacy host system, comprising:
2 means for receiving, from a client, a request for a host screen;
3 means for navigating to the host screen;
4 means for retrieving the host screen;
5 means for formatting the host screen into a formatted host screen; and
6 means for sending the formatted host screen to the client.

1 24. The system as recited in claim 23, wherein the formatted host screen includes
2 selectable links to other screens within a host system.

1 25. The system as recited in claim 23, wherein the step of navigating to the host
2 screen comprises retrieving at least one intermediate screen in order to retrieve the
3 host screen.

1 26. The system as recited in claim 23, further comprising:
2 means, responsive to a determination that variable data is needed to navigate
3 to the host screen, for sending to the client a submittable form containing text fields
4 that may be filled in by a user; and

5 means, responsive to receiving the variable data from the client, for using the
6 variable data to retrieve the host screen.

7 27. The system as recited in claim 23, wherein the client is a portable data
8 processing system.

9 28. The system as recited in claim 5, wherein the portable data processing system
10 is a wireless system.

11 29. The system as recited in claim 25, wherein the intermediate screen is not
12 presented to the user.

1 30. The system as recited in claim 25, wherein appropriate entries are made in the
2 at least one intermediate screen in order to navigate to the host screen.

1 31. The system as recited in claim 23, wherein the formatting step formats the
2 host screen into a markup language.

1 32. The system as recited in claim 31, wherein the markup language is an
2 extensible markup language.

1 33. The system as recited in claim 31, wherein the markup language is a hypertext
2 markup language.

1 34. A macro bean for providing navigation between screens within a legacy host
2 system, the macro bean comprising:

3 first instructions for receiving a request for a requested host screen from a
4 legacy host system;

5 second instructions for determining the current host screen; and

6 third instructions for navigating to the requested host screen.

7 35. The macro bean as recited in claim 34, wherein intermediate host screens
8 between the current host screen and the requested host screen are unsent to a client.

9 36. The macro bean as recited in claim 34, further comprising fourth instructions
10 for entering appropriate data at intermediate host screens in order to access the
11 requested host screen.

1 37. The macro bean as recited in claim 34, wherein variable data received from a
2 client is entered appropriately into one or more of the intermediate host screens.